and (b) Out of six medium irrigation projects estimated to cost Rs. 108 crores to provide irrigation to about 47,000 hectares, appraisal of two projects have been returned for want of response from the State.

People living below poverty in the country

1124. SHRI SUBAS MOHANTY: Will the Minister of PLANNING be pleased to state:

(a) whether during 1987-88 the number of people living below poverty line in the country has increased due to the increasing prices and decline in the value of rupee;

(b) whether Government propose to make any assessment in this regard;

(c) if so the details thereof;

(d) the time by when Government are likely to collect the requisite information; and

(e) if the answer to part (d) above be in negative, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF PLANNING AND THE MINISTER OF PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI MADHAVSINH SOLANKI): (a) to (e) The estimates of persons below poverty line are prepared on the basis of the National Sample Survey (NSS) data on Household Consumer Expenditure. The latest estimates in this regard based on 38th Round of NSS are available for the year 1983-84. The estimates of persons below poverty line for 1987-88 would be made after the results of the 43rd Round of NSS on Consumer Expenditure, are available. Preliminary results of this Survey are likely to be available in a year's time.

Approval of Medium Irrigation Projects of Tamil Nadu

1125. SHRI K. V. THANGKABALU: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that some medium irrigation projects of Tamil Nadu are proposed to be approved by the Planning Commission during the remaining period of the Seventh Five Year Plan; and

(b) if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRIMATI KRISHNA SAHI): (a) and (b) Two medium irrigation projects estimated to cost Rs. 15 crores, received from Tamil Nadu Government, have been examined and comments sent. These are expected to provide irrigation to an area of about 12 thousand hectares.

Setting up of a separate administrative cadre for North-Eastern States

1126. SHRI RAOOF VALIULLAH: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state;

(a) whether Government propose the setting up of separate administrative cadre for North-Eastern States; if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether the Union Territory cadre will be merged in the proposed cadre; and

(c) whether the concerned States have been consulted; if so, their reactions to the proposal?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) Formation of a North-Eastern Cadre for the All India Service is under consideration.

(b) There is no proposal to merge the Union Territories cadre in the proposed North-Eastern Cadre.